

myo

metropolitan youth orchestra

Presented by: 



Is the ISO's Metropolitan Youth Orchestra program creating the impact that we intend?

With the financial support of the Glick Fund and the expertise of Community Solutions, we set out to answer that question throughout the 2018-2019 program year by undertaking an impact study.

By examining four key areas—retention, family impact, relationship to music, and post-MYO life—we hoped to see that the program is effective and what weaknesses exist to improve. The results are in and we would like to share with you the most impactful of the key findings in the report:

Retention

- Students and families are drawn to MYO due to the appeal of learning to play an instrument.
- Once in the program, benefits appear after one year and grow over time, especially with long-term participation.
- What benefits are students gaining? Student benefits include musical progression, making friends, learning important life skills, and a greater appreciation of music.
- There are two primary challenges to retaining students: balancing responsibilities (MYO, academics, extracurriculars and others) and student's lack of confidence in their musical skill.
- Generally, students stay engaged in the program longer when they participate with other members of their families.

Did You Know? Our retention rate has been above 90% in each of the past four years.

Relationship to Music

- Greater appreciation of music in general and for different types of music.
- More frequently attend musical events.
- Many participants and alumni have continued or plan to continue playing music after leaving MYO.

Did You Know? Three out of 15 MYO teachers are alumni of the program, including the Director of MYO, Krystle Ford.

Family Impact

- MYO is welcoming and establishes a culturally responsive learning environment.
- MYO is a partner to parents helping to develop life skills: social, communication, self-confidence and discipline.
- Parents feel supported by MYO staff and feel they have what they need to reinforce progress at home, musically and in other areas.
- Families, regardless of background or financial means, feel supported and that they can access the benefits of MYO.

Did You Know?

Our teaching faculty engage in frequent, intentional training in an effort to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for all families

Post-MYO Life

- MYO affords key opportunities that lead to interest in and access to post-secondary success.
- As a result of their participation in the program, MYO participants learn to develop important skills, such as discipline and perseverance, that can be applied to other areas of their lives, leading to success after high school.

Did You Know? Due to the generosity of donors, MYO offers scholarships to students of all ages that can include contributions to college savings accounts, local and national summer music experiences, and investment in higher quality instruments.



"We are very lucky to have MYO available with such great teachers and the ability for our young children to be involved with a wonderful Symphony Orchestra."

– Parent Focus Group Participant

"I loved the family feeling there was in MYO. I came from a low-income family, but with them, I was able to get a personal tutor, and it helped me so much."

– Alumni Survey Participant

"[MYO has helped me be] more confident because I know I belong somewhere."

– Student Focus Group Participant

"I appreciate the love and patience our child has been shown in this program. I know that this is a long-term investment that will reap huge dividends, and I so appreciate the investment MYO has made in my child in return. I am humbled by it."

– Parent Focus Group Participant